

GENERAL NEWS

Our New York Letter.

Editors Progressive Farmer:

Many of your readers are aware that for years an attempt has been made at almost every session on Congress to have a bill passed which would create uniformity in the food laws and constitute a national pure food law. It was thought this season that all obstacles had been overcome and that the manufacturer of preserves or jams could at last sell the same goods in New York and New Jersey and North Carolina, for instance, without putting a separate label on each, and even then finding himself annoyed by some State Pure Food Inspector. But now it seems that every interest affected wants the bill amended so it will miss him and hit the other fellow hard. The manipulators of whiskey want a change, so do the makers of inferior goods and glucose products, whose "pure" fruit jams never saw a piece of fruit. The result is that some of the leading makers have concluded they will go ahead and remain on the same lines as heretofore, fighting their troubles in court rather than waiting longer for Congress to take action.

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A couple of experts in tobacco raising from Wisconsin were sent to South Africa to superintendent an experiment in that line and report most favorably. On a two acre plot the tobacco was cut three and one-half months from seeding, and the yield was about 3,700 pounds. The quality compares favorably with anything grown in America, and this country may yet have quite a formidable competitor from that far-off section. But the danger is probably some distance away. At any rate, the business of the American Tobacco Co., for the year ended Dec. 31, shows net earnings of \$8,664,785, an increase of \$1,214,210, while the Consolidated Company shows net earnings for 1903 of \$16,358,124, an increase of \$3,066,664 over the previous year. The transactions of this company have few superiors in point of magnitude in any of the huge corporations formed in recent years.

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Has the trading-stamp mania struck North Carolina? Here it is carried to the extreme and gets to be something of a bore. With every pound of steak, with every yard of muslin, with your coal and your coffin, with your hat and your ice, go so many trading stamps to be redeemed in the most miscellaneous articles imaginable. This scheme has made its founders millionaires. Of course, it has many bitter enemies among the trade, but upon the whole seems to meet with popular reception.

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The number of deaths in the city is appallingly large owing to the great number taken off with pulmonary diseases. Close to 2,000 per week are consigned to the grave, the number being far above the normal, and

showing something like 24 per 1,000. The long cold winter has claimed its thousands, and everybody is so thankful that one of the worst of all months is half over and that from now on we may look forward with hopefulness. The only things we have to remind us of the fact that there are warmer sections is the sight of strawberries and other Southern produce in the markets. The ground is still deeply frozen, and every night is a very cold one.

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As to the markets, a slight decline has taken place in spirits of turpentine, and not over 62c. can be quoted to-day, with buying very light. Common rosin is still \$2.80, but this is somewhat nominal and stock can be bought for less. From this the range is up to \$4.25 for WW. Tar unchanged at \$4@\$.10 for oil packages. Pitch \$2.35@\$.240.

Peanuts in good demand and quotations well sustained. Virginia handpicked Jumbos, 7c.; Spanish, No. 1, 6³/₄c. Southern sliced evaporated apples, 3¹/₂@4c. Eggs show some decline under more ample receipts, and if the weather moderates still further there must come still further fall. Southern firsts, 18¹/₂@19c.; seconds 17@18c. Should any of your readers desire reports on any particular article and will let the Editor know, I will endeavor to meet their wishes, either by sending the reports to The Progressive Farmer direct, or by letter if stamp is enclosed. Communications to the editor for the New York correspondent will reach me, and I will try to supply any information. R. A. D.

New York, March 18, 1904.

Boll Weevil Legislation.

The Mississippi Legislature has passed the boll weevil bill prohibiting the importation into the State of boll weevils, making an appropriation for keeping out the pest and authorizing the State entomologist, whenever he finds a field of cotton infected with boll weevil, to compel its owner to destroy the cotton and decide how much the owner is entitled to. The sentiment in the Legislature was that it was impossible to keep the boll weevil out of Mississippi, but the experiment is worth trying.

Stir in Congress Over Postoffice Report

There was a great deal of excitement in Congress last week over the report of Fourth Assistant Postmaster-General Bristow, furnished at the request of the chairman of the committee on post-offices and post-roads, giving all information relating to allowances for clerk hire and "to leases which have been made to members of Congress and whether discontinued or renewed at a higher rate." Mr. Bristow, in his report, gave the names of 151 members who had interested themselves in these matters of clerk hire and leases. The committee on post-offices and post-roads published the report, and the 151 members howled. It was maintained that the members had not got

these clerk hire allowances and leases for themselves, which would have been a violation of section 3739 of the Revised Statutes, but for their constituents, which they declared to be perfectly proper. As Representative Overstreet put it: "The only motive was to promote the interest of their constituents. And there has been a complete exoneration of members of the House; instead of there being a reflection upon them, their honor and respect will be enriched." It may be difficult to persuade the uninstructed public to see the situation in exactly this light. But as each Congressman appeals to constituents so beneficently looked after, none of the 151 should have any difficulty about being re-elected.—Country Gentleman.

Rhodes Scholarships.

The trustees of the will of the late Cecil Rhodes announce for the information of the college authorities in the United States and Canada that a qualifying examination for Rhodes scholarships will be held simultaneously in each State or province beginning April 13.

The committees of selection will be furnished with examination papers prepared at Oxford and circulars will be mailed to the committees of selection, who will be asked to fix a place for the examination.

George R. Parkin, the representative of the trustees, will leave England for New York about March 15.

Governor Will Veto Maryland Franchise Amendment.

Governor Warfield will veto the amendment to the Maryland Constitution, passed by both Houses last week for the express purpose of disfranchising the negroes. As soon as the bill reaches him he will prepare his veto message and send it to both Houses of the General Assembly. The veto will be on the ground that the amendment is too drastic and unfair.

The Democratic leaders will endeavor to pass the amendment over the veto, but it is doubtful if they can muster sufficient votes.

One year's experience with saloons has convinced a majority of the people of Vermont that it is better to return to prohibition.

After having prohibition for half a century in Vermont the people were persuaded to abolish it, and two years ago a local option law was enacted. Under this law ninety-two cities and towns voted in favor of saloons, but after one year's experience only forty-eight voted to continue the saloons, and nearly all of them by reduced majorities.—Chatham Record.

Ex-Lieutenant-Governor James H. Tillman, recently acquitted of murder for the killing of Editor N. G. Gonzales, of Columbia, S. C., announces his candidacy for Congress. He will stand for the seat vacated by the death of Col. G. W. Croft. The dead Congressman was at one time the law partner of Tillman and his leading counsel in the murder trial.

STATE NEWS

FROM CURRITUCK TO CHEROKEE.

Items of Interest Gleaned from Our Correspondents and Exchanges.

The Board of Agriculture will establish at once another soil test farm west of the Blue Ridge. Four of such farms are already in operation.

A report shows that 715 free libraries for rural public schools have been established in North Carolina. State Superintendent Joyner says 300 more will be established this year, also 400 more supplementary libraries.

The Woman's Association for the Improvement of Public Schools will give an art exhibit April 6-9 at the Governor's Mansion, Raleigh. This organization is doing excellent work for the rural schools and deserves the encouragement of all public-spirited citizens.

Chatham Record: The payment of \$2 before the first day of April will exempt any man in Chatham from working the roads for a year. Under the old law a man could be made to work the roads six days in a year or pay \$6 to be exempted. Our new road law thus saves \$4 a year to any Chathamite who wishes to be exempt from working the roads.

News and Observer: Mr. Mark Morgan, of Scotland County, this week has given to the Southern Presbyterian College and Conservatory of Music at Red Springs an up-to-date college building, or rather the money with which to build it—\$7,000, which will contain a one-story, fire-proof kitchen, the balance of the culinary department for the whole institution, and dormitory rooms.

Raleigh Post: Since the decision of the Supreme Court in the Patterson case some of the distillers have adopted a new arrangement for supplying their customers throughout the State. They are establishing branch places or houses just over the Virginia line, shipping the liquor there and reshipping it from that point to North Carolina customers. A distillery at Hamlet, it was learned yesterday, has rented a place in Suffolk, Va.

State Entomologist Franklin Sherman, who is in Moore County looking after the great fruit orchards there, says that the outlook for a fruit crop is extremely fine. The largest orchard in the State is that of Van Lindley, near Pinehurst. In this are 27,000 peach trees, 5,000 pears and 3,000 plums, about 6,000 of the peach trees are not yet in bearing. The San Jose scale caused the loss of many trees, but owing to spraying and careful treatment, this disease is now under control, though it yet exists to some extent. The next largest peach orchard in the State is at Candor, where there are 200 acres, containing some 20,000 trees. In Moore County, near Southern Pines, the Niagara Grape and Fruit Company has 6,000 peach trees. That sandhill country is found to be a wonderful place for fruit and grapes.